

**STORAGE MEDIUM AND TAPE DRIVE DEVICE**

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**Inventor:** KATO TATSUYA; IKEDA KATSUMI; YOSHIDA MASAKI;  
TAKAYAMA YOSHIHISA; SANO TAKANOBU  
**Applicant:** SONY CORP  
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**Abstract of JP2000090641**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To add information suited for updated and efficiently read or update management information by setting a free region for additionally storing the management information at a memory for storing the management information regarding a magnetic tape and storing free region address information for controlling the range of the free region.

**SOLUTION:** A free region for additionally storing management information is set to a memory (MIC) that is arranged along with a magnetic tape and a free region address for controlling the range of the free region is stored, thus grasping a writable region even if the free region is not retrieved at the side of a drive device. Also, by setting the free region address information to information that can be written according to the writing or deletion of management information at the free region, a writably region as the most recent information at that point can be constantly indicated and constantly appropriate free region information can be given to the drive device even if a storage medium is attached or detached.

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